DC 488

Filmmakers Seminar

Fall 2014
The Lot in Hollywood
Tues & Thurs 6:00pm

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Course Description

Each week, students will be given the rare opportunity to speak directly with industry professionals from all walks. Hollywood directors, writers, cinematographers, editors, producers, agents, managers, entertainment lawyers, development executives and others will come to class, discuss their journeys, offer advice, and answer questions. The class will culminate with an industry mixer, where these professionals, along with dozens more, will join the students for a relaxed evening of networking. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to begin to form meaningful relationships that can help them as they transition from student to filmmaker.

Course Goals

The purpose of this class is to introduce the student to working professionals in the Hollywood entertainment industry in a classroom environment, focusing on the following key objectives for the quarter:

1. Students will research the guest speakers' career for the purpose of asking meaningful questions on their profession during the classroom interviews.

2. Students will gain a solid understanding of each guest speakers' particular profession, and how they function in the entertainment industry.

3. Students will network and develop meaningful work relationships with industry professionals, both in the classroom and outside such as the industry mixer and class trips & events.

Class Schedule

NOTE**:** *This schedule is subject to change. Please consult class calendar and Professor emails for the most up to date schedule for student postings, readings, assignments, and all-due dates.*

Week 1

Introduction to LA Quarter courses and each other.
Review syllabus and class requirements.

Weeks 2 – 9

Students Trades Discussions.
Professor & Students Classroom Discussion.
Industry professional interviews.
Student questions.
Screenings, handouts, class events as assigned by the instructor TBD per class.

Weeks 10

Individual or Small Group Video Project Screening.
Industry Network Party (Date TBD).
Screening, handouts, class events as assigned by the instructor TBD per class.

Grading

Trade Discussions	20%
Student Questions	10%
Video Project	20%
Participation	50%

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-88, B = 87-83, B- = 82-80, C+ = 79-78, C = 77-73, C- = 72-70, D+ = 69-68, D = 67-63, D- = 62-60, F = 59-0. A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D indicates unsatisfactory work, and F is a failure to demonstrate an understanding of course concepts.

Textbook

Recommended websites for trade discussions:

Deadline Hollywood

Hollywood Reporter

Assignments

Trade Discussions

Each week, two to three students will choose a news article from a trade site (Deadline Hollywood, Hollywood Reporter, Box Office Mojo, etc.) that interests them and give a three-to-five minute presentation at the beginning of class, which will then be opened up for discussion.

Please email me a link to the story the night before the class.

Student Questions

Each week industry professionals will visit the class to discuss their experiences in the entertainment industry. Students should be familiar with the guests' backgrounds before they come in (we will email you a link to their imdb page or resume) and prepare two or three questions to ask. Students will be randomly selected by the Professor interviewing or the guest to ask their questions.

Video Project

During their stay in Los Angeles, students will make a short video (no more than **5 minutes**) of their experiences and impressions of Los Angeles.

The video can be made individually, or with a small group (three students or less) and will be presented to the class on the final night of class.

Cameras and equipment will be supplied to the students by DePaul University.

Course Policies

Attendance

Classroom attendance is MANDATORY. More than one "excused" absence (doctor's note, Dodgers game, etc) will result in a lowering of grade per each absence.

Deadlines

Strict Adherence to deadlines is expected. Materials presented or posted late will result in a negative grade for the particular assignment.

School policies

Online Instructor Evaluation

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over two weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online at https://mycti.cti.depaul.edu/mycti

Email

Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at CampusConnect is correct.

Academic Integrity Policy

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at

http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/

Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be

imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

Incomplete

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

Resources for Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: Student Center, LPC, Suite #370 Phone number: (773)325.1677 Fax: (773)325.3720 TTY: (773)325.7296